

first responders. In recent years, however, the American people have been reminded of the vital protections they provide to our communities. From the Twin Towers in 2001 to the Boston Marathon in 2013, we have seen these heroes rush into danger that others flee. We have seen them risk their lives to save the lives of others.

That is precisely what the people of Lewiston have seen since their first fire company was established in 1849. Through the years, fire has claimed textile and lumber mills, stores and schools, homes and even city hall. Yet never has a fire, no matter how fierce, been allowed to spiral out of control into a conflagration. The willingness of the people of Lewiston to always rebuild is testament to the confidence they have that their valiant firefighters will protect their property and their lives.

That protection comes at a high price. The Lewiston Firefighters Memorial bears the names of nine men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Today, under the leadership of Fire Chief Paul LeClair and International Association of Firefighters Local 785 president Rick Cailler, the Lewiston Fire Department is recognized as one of the best in Maine, known for its professionalism, efficiency, and dedication. In the special language of the firefighter community, the Lewiston firefighters are considered “the toughest Jakes on the job.”

They are tough yet filled with community spirit and compassion. Through the generosity of its members, the Local 785 Community Fund sponsors youth sports teams, charities, and the arts, and provides children in need with Christmas toys. Their annual “Fill the Boot” campaign raises many thousands of dollars for the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

America's firefighters play a vital role in the security of our Nation and the safety of our people. Whether it is in response to a terrorist attack, a natural disaster, or a fire, Americans rely on our firefighters, and our firefighters always answer the call. The firefighters of Lewiston, ME, are a shining example of that commitment, and I join the people of their city in saluting them.

RECOGNIZING TONY PETKOVSEK

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Tony Petkovsek, who will be inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame on August 3, 2013. Mr. Petkovsek has devoted his life's work to cultivating Cleveland-Slovenian music and culture, most notably by hosting the longest running daily radio show in the world.

Growing up in Cleveland's St. Clair neighborhood, Mr. Petkovsek was immersed in Slovenian culture from a young age. After completing college and broadcasting school, he began producing and broadcasting his own radio shows on Cleveland's WXEN, on No-

vember 23, 1961, which was Thanksgiving Day. Since 1962, his show has been broadcasted daily.

Mr. Petkovsek is one of the most prominent ambassadors of Cleveland-style polka both locally and nationally. In 1967, he originated the Polka Tour at Kollander World Travel, which has since taken thousands of polka fans all over the world. His annual Thanksgiving celebration evolved from a dance in 1963 to a national focal point of Cleveland-style polkas, attracting polka fans from all over America to join the festivities. Mr. Petkovsek was instrumental in founding the United Slovenian Society, the Cleveland-Slovenian Radio Club, the East 185th Street Business Association, and the American Slovenian Polka Foundation. Notably, Mr. Petkovsek served on the Ohio Arts Council under Gov. George Voinovich.

His contributions to Cleveland-style polka have been widely recognized over the years. Some of these honors have included the Federation of Slovenian Homes' “Man of the Year” in 1966, his induction into the St. Joseph High School Hall of Fame in 1987 and his induction into the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1991. Mr. Petkovsek was also recognized with a merit badge by the President of Slovenia, Danilo Turk, in 2012 for his service to the country of Slovenia and to Slovenians in Cleveland.

I would like to honor Tony Petkovsek for his contributions to Cleveland-style polka and to the Cleveland Slovenian community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UCLA BRUINS NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of California, Los Angeles baseball team for winning the 2013 National Collegiate Athletics Association, NCAA, Division I College World Series. On June 25, the UCLA Bruins capped off a magical season and earned their first baseball national championship by sweeping the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

This victory wouldn't have been possible without the determination and teamwork of the skilled and dedicated players and the devoted coaching and training staff, led by head coach John Savage. The 2013 Bruins showed these extraordinary qualities all season, finishing with a 49-17 record and matching a school record with 21 wins in the Pac-12 conference play.

During the NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals, the Bruins began their undefeated march through the postseason by defeating worthy and spirited opponents from San Diego State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the University of San Diego, and Cal State Fullerton en route to earning their third trip in 4 years to the prestigious College World Series in Omaha, NE.

In the College World Series, the Bruins unleashed a historic display of overpowering pitching, steady defense, and timely hitting to defeat competition from Louisiana State, North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina, and Mississippi State to capture the first national championship in UCLA baseball history. The Bruins became the first championship team to allow one run or fewer in every College World Series game. In total, the Bruins allowed just 14 runs during their dominant 10-0 run through the NCAA tournament.

True to their reputation as a team of great resolve and determination, the Bruins were bolstered by contributions from every player on their roster. They worked together to ensure that the College World Series trophy will finally make its way to UCLA, a school with a rich baseball tradition that includes Jackie Robinson, who honed his prodigious skills before becoming a National Baseball Hall of Famer and national hero. With the addition of the College World Series trophy, the UCLA Hall of Champions will now boast an unmatched 109 NCAA team championships.

It is my pleasure to congratulate UCLA students, families, alumni, faculty, and Bruin fans, as they celebrate their 2013 National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I College World Series victory and their remarkable and memorable season.●

REMEMBERING LUKE SHEEHY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Luke Sheehy, a loving son, devoted friend, and courageous firefighter. Luke Sheehy passed away on June 10, 2013, succumbing to injuries he sustained while heroically combating a wildfire in the Modoc National Forest. He was 28 years old.

Luke Sheehy was born in Susanville, CA, graduated from Susanville High School, and attended the Shasta College Fire Academy. After serving as a firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management's Diamond Mountain Hotshots, Luke became a U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper, parachuting from airplanes to fight fires in remote and hard-to-access areas, helping to train new smokejumpers and earning respect for his strong work ethic and leadership abilities.

Those who knew him best will remember Luke as a genuine friend who loved his family and enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowboarding and the piano, guitar and fiddle.

My heart goes out to Luke's family, loved ones, and colleagues, and my thoughts and prayers are with them.

Luke Sheehy, like all those who fight fires across California, put his life on the line to protect our families and communities. We are forever indebted to him for his courage, service and sacrifice, and he will be dearly missed.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE PERKINS

• **Mr. VITTER.** Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of George Perkins, a beloved community leader from Hammond, LA, who passed away suddenly in April of this year. George was born in 1942 and would have turned 71 on August 17.

George was born in Walker, LA, and relocated to Hammond in 1979. He immediately became a community leader in the Hammond area. He joined Greenfield Missionary Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and member of the male chorus. He cochaired the board of deacons and was in charge of the church's video recording.

George was an insurance sales representative and later a cable TV franchise owner by trade, but he was best known as one of the originators of the Tangipahoa Black Festival that began in 1984. In 1987, the name was changed to the Tangipahoa Parish Black Heritage Festival. With the new name, George and other leaders of the organization decided they needed a permanent facility and they contacted the parish school system to purchase a boarded-up school on 7.3 acres of land that was left over from integration. Over the years they have renovated the facility, which has become the Tangipahoa Parish African American Heritage Museum and Veterans Archive. George could be found there on most days working in whatever capacity in which he was needed—from acting as tour guide to researching records to taking on kitchen duty.

He also served his community in other ways. He was a member of the advisory board for North Oaks Hospital and served as the first Black councilman for District 3 in the city of Hammond. He later served as an assistant to State Representative Henry "Tank" Powell and was a founding member of the 2nd Saturday breakfast group—a group which invites members of the community to gather monthly regardless of racial and social divides to discuss issues of concern to the community. He was a member of the Masonic Order Prince Hall affiliation, the past worshipful master of Oak Grove Lodge #117 in Hammond and a grand officer of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge for the State of Louisiana.

George Perkins was a man of many talents and music was his passion. He wrote and produced many songs including "Cryin' in the Streets"—his No. 1 hit. It sold over 1 million copies and provided him the opportunity to perform at the Apollo Theater.

George will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 42 years, Eloise, 3 daughters, 3 sons, 19 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, 6 sisters, 2 brothers, and an entire community. I am pleased to join them in honoring George Perkins, a man who provided a great example of leadership through his service to others and his community. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2218. An act to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2218. An act to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-59. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to codify into law a United States Department of Defense standard for religious freedom that would be applied to all uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 175

Whereas, the freedom to practice religion and to express religious thought is acknowledged as our first freedom, enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution and is a freedom which belongs to all Americans; and

Whereas, our military has fought to preserve all rights and freedoms enumerated in the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, recent news reports and statements of high ranking military personnel reveal a growing intolerance and in some cases outright hostility toward religious expression and affiliation within segments of our nation's military; and

Whereas, in Section 533 of the United States National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013, the United States Department of Defense is charged with developing regulations that would implement the conscience protections recently passed by the United States Congress; and

Whereas, the same protections have not been established throughout the Department of Defense for all service personnel; and

Whereas, individual branches of the military have adopted policies that are not in keeping with the spirit of Section 533 of the NDAA; and

Whereas, protection of religious freedom is fundamental to all freedoms as Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to codify into law a United States Department of Defense standard for religious freedom that would be applied to all uniformed services, ensuring that all members of the armed forces may engage in peaceable and noncombative religious speech, includ-

ing noncoercive proselytizing, and that such speech is not in derogation of the good order and discipline of the armed forces; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-60. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizing the valor and courage of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, military heroes who served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake should be recognized by the people of this great nation, who should never forget the courage with which these soldiers fought; and

Whereas, in full accord with its long standing traditions, it is the sense of this legislative body to memorialize the Congress of the United States to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, and to request that Congress bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon these war heroes; and

Whereas, this auspicious honor, considered the most distinguished, is an award bestowed by the United States Congress and is, along with the presidential medal of freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, given to persons who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement of the Borinqueneers now and in the future; and

Whereas, as mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment, hailing from Puerto Rico, was the only Hispanic-segregated unit ever in the United States Armed Forces that played a prominent role in American military history, having participated in three wars in which the United States was engaged, World War I, World War II, and most notably, the Korean war; and

Whereas, the Borinqueneers were willing to shed their blood, sweat and tears for democracy by enlisting in the United States Armed Forces on their own accord to defend the freedoms of others; and

Whereas, these brave men were one of the first infantrymen of the "Rock of the Marine Division. (3rd Infantry Division) to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea, fighting with determination and efficiency; and

Whereas, the 65th Infantry Regiment served with distinction and valor, earning two Presidential Unit Citations, Army Unit Superior Award, Navy Unit Citation, two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and Bravery Gold Medal of Greece; and

Whereas, the congressional honor would affirm that they are recognized by the people of the United States as true American heroes who served their country with distinction, fighting bravely even while enduring the hardships of segregation and discrimination; and

Whereas, the Borinqueneers are veritable American heroes and deserve to be recognized, commended, acknowledged and remembered by the people of the State of Massachusetts, as well as by all of the citizens of this great Nation: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States hereby, respectfully memorialized by this legislative body, recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers, and request that these war heroes receive the Congressional Gold Medal; and be it further